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RETREATING ITALIANS FIGHT FIERCELY

London Has Heaviest Air Assault Of War

Glowing Sea Of Fire Left By Germans

German Report Says Viable Hail of 700 Tons of High Explosives and 100 Tons of Fire Bombs Loosed on London.

Budget Requests For 1941-42 Year Are Little Changed



Mrs. Elizabeth Deegan (above) of Asheville, was reportedly held by German authorities in Paris without explanation. Mrs. Deegan is the granddaughter of a former U. S. Senator, Jeter C. Pritchard.

Averill Summarizes Requests Made to Advisory Budget Commission, Showing Half-Million Less Asked Than in 1939.

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENRY AVERILL.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Recently there was something of a shocked reaction in some quarters when it was published that total requests for appropriations from the general fund for the fiscal year 1941-2 ran to \$43,111,832.

Probably this was due to the fact that it was the first time these requests were summarized and their total printed. As a matter of fact the requests made to the Advisory Budget Commission ran nearly half a million dollars less than those made just prior to the 1939 General Assembly.

Then general fund requests reached \$43,545,794.

Taking a look all down the line, it appears that there were only a few minor changes here and there. There was one big item which appeared to show a decided reduction in funds asked—that was the item for pensions; but as a matter of fact that was accounted for by transfer of widows of Confederate veterans to the Old Age Assistance rolls, which were upped correspondingly.

Using round figures, here's how the main items asked for this time compared with the requests for 1940-41: (each year's being given first in each instance):

General Assembly, \$200,000 each time; judicial \$455,000 and \$452,000; executive \$3,172,000 and \$3,557,538; educational institutions \$3,625,000 and \$3,425,000; charitable and correctional institutions \$2,647,000 and \$2,695,600; State aid \$2,840,000 and \$2,823,000; pensions \$227,000 and \$600,000; contingency and emergency \$500,000 each item; public schools \$29,654,000 and \$29,292,000. Total general fund requests \$43,112,000 and \$43,545,794.

The requests for 1940-1 were about \$6,000,000 greater than what the budget commission eventually recommended, which may give an inkling of what is to be expected in the way of recommendation from the current budget group.

Recently Tom Bost, the Greensboro News' able correspondent, wrote a piece in which it was said that the 1941 legislature's problem will be how to spend the money which will be available through increasing State revenues.

That ought to be about as simple as any matter possibly can be. Just take a look at the amount of money the legislature is being asked to spend.

Requests from all sources—general fund, highway division, agricultural, etc.—total \$43,545,794.

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Draftees Dig Out of East's First Big Snow



The first real snow in the East put a heavy blanket of white over Camp Dix, in New Jersey, giving the selective service draftees a job of digging out. Here, some of the new soldiers are shown at their task. Soldiers in Camp Dix still have to live in tents. (Central Press)

Greeks Take Twelve Full Batteries

Part of Argirocastro Burned By Italians But Large Supplies of War Materials Fall to the Greeks Pursuing Advance.

Athens, Dec. 9.—(AP)—Fierce fighting beyond Argirocastro was reported today between Greece's advancing army and the Italian rear guard, strongly entreated to cover the retreat of the main fascist body to the north and west.

With Argirocastro, the last of Italy's southern Albanian bases, behind them, Greek soldiers launched into the new swift follow-up attack with cries of "on to Valona."

Valona, the next Albanian sea gateway for Italian supplies in the Greek path, is about 40 miles northwest of Argirocastro. About midway on that line lies Tepelini, a road junction toward which the Greeks are fighting from the east and south. Their goal shouted as a battle slogan is "Tirana by Christmas." Tirana is the Albanian capital.

The capture of Argirocastro yesterday, two days after the fall of Italy's southernmost Albanian port of Porto Edda, touched off a three-day celebration.

Part of the city had been burned by the Italians before they fled, but the amount of captured war material was said to be enormous and to include twelve full batteries of abandoned artillery.

After six weeks of fighting the Greeks have driven the Italian invaders completely from their soil and pushed their own counter-invasion across about 20 percent of Albania's Italian-held territory.

In Rome, the Italian high command announced that Italy's 11th army had withdrawn to a new defense line north of Argirocastro.

British Ready For Egyptian Offensive

With British forces in Egypt, Dec. 9.—(AP)—British authorities declared today that if Premier Mussolini's changes in the Italian high command lead to an offensive in Egypt in an effort to regain lost prestige, Britain's desert forces will be ready for them.

With General Sir Archibald Wavell's reinforced east army expressing confidence of being able to hold Egypt against the fascists, these informants said "nothing would delight our forces more than an Italian thrust at their strongly fortified lines running through the western desert."

The Italian navy as well as the army had changes in leadership. Admiral Arturo Riccardi, 62, became naval chief of staff and undersecretary of the navy following the resignation of Admiral Domenico Cavagnari. Admiral Angelo Jacchini is given the title "commander of the fleet on the sea" and Admiral Inigo Campione was made vice chief of the naval staff.

Farm Program Assailed As Bureaucratic

Dec. 9.—(AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation today assailed the farm program as "bureaucratic" in its research staff report on the New Deal, through operation of the multi-million dollar program, had built up a vast staff of "thrusting" officials under "hostile" supervision.

The report was prepared under the direction of W. R. O'Connell, the farm program's Washington representative and research director.

Just before the resolutions of the federation's 22nd convention opening today, O'Connell and the resolutions committee invited Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard, AAA director R. M. Evans and other farm department officials to a hearing on decentralizing administration of farm programs.

The report, which was being prepared for publication for the coming year, was said by officials to contain as many as seven different criticisms of the program which had been administered since it was established in 1933. The report, it is said, suggested ways of saving "several million dollars" annually in administrative expenses.

Wage-Hour Commission Is Expected To Recommend Legislation Be Enacted

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENRY AVERILL.

Raleigh, Dec. 9.—Members of the North Carolina Fair Labor Standards commission have had exactly nothing to say about the impressions made upon them by a two-day hearing last week-end; but there are some indications that they are likely to recommend to the 1941 General Assembly a state wage and hour law setting a maximum week of 48 hours and a minimum wage rate of 25 cents an hour.

In view of the very discreet silence preserved on all sides, this is a completely unofficial forecast without even a scintilla of "inside" from any member of the commission.

It is known, however, that conservative members of the Federal wage and hour division in the Carolinas have suggested the state and the present needs of the state and of putting most of the now un-restricted intra-state industries on something of a parity with those under the Federal act.

It is certain, too, that Commissioner of Labor Ernest H. Stuffed,

British Make Contact With Italians on Broad Front in Egyptian Desert.

Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 9.—(AP)—British forces have made contact with the Italians "on a broad front" in the western Egyptian desert and have taken 500 prisoners in an engagement south of Sidi Barrani, the British African command reported today.

This front has long been dormant, with the British apparently content to prevent the Italians from driving further into Egypt from Sidi Barrani, 70 miles inside the western frontier.

The action was described as between British "advance elements" and the Italians.

The Italians, under Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, drove across the Libyan-Egyptian frontier early in the Italian-British conflict and marched along the coast to Sidi Barrani with little opposition. From there they have made little important progress for the last three months.

Italian Army Chief Seized In Caribbean

Washington, Dec. 9.—(AP)—The Navy department said today the German freighter Iderwald was in the possession of the British cruiser Diomedea after an unsuccessful attempt to run the British blockade from Mexico.

Navy sources said the British warship seized the Iderwald after the crew of the German vessel attempted to scuttle her.

Navy officials declined today to discuss any further details.

The Navy department had said earlier that the British had boarded the Iderwald, put down the flames, hauled down the swastika flag and run up their own.

The cruiser intercepted the freighter about 75 miles from the south coast port of Cienfuegos, between the Isles of Pines and Grand Cayman island, officials to the Cuban department of communications radio bureau said. This is well within the American neutrality belt.

President Roosevelt had been sailing secretly in Caribbean waters on the cruiser Tuscaloosa, but he arrived at Martinique, about 1,000 miles to the southeast, during the afternoon.

Nazi Ship Captured

Desert War Is Resumed

British Cruiser Foils Attempts of German Freighter to Escape Blockade.

Cotton Crop Estimate Is Reduced

Calcutt Enters Guilty Plea

London Has Quiet Day

British Raid German Bases

Weather For North Carolina

Shopping Days Left

Get Socks for John

Christmas Seals

Italian Army Chief Seized In Caribbean



Gen. Ugo Cavallero

A new Italian offensive is expected under the command of pro-Nazi General Ugo Cavallero, who succeeded Marshal Pietro Badoglio as chief of the Fascist General Staff. Gen. Cavallero had been commanding troops on the Italian French front.

Greeks Thank Roosevelt For Promise

Athens, Dec. 9.—(AP)—President Roosevelt's promise to give help to Greece was received with enthusiasm here today and government spokesmen received American correspondents especially to convey the thanks of the Greek people.

Eleftheros Vima said "Mr. Roosevelt's message is causing joy through out the entire Greek nation as showing the extent of friendship and mutual assistance existing between our country and his great nation."

Several papers printed large photographs of Roosevelt.

British Raid German Bases

London, Dec. 9.—(AP)—A great fire was started by British night air raiders among buildings between two of the dock basins in the German-held French port of Bordeaux, the air ministry news service said today.

This was part of far-flung British air raids last night, in which the air ministry said RAF bombers attacked industrial and military targets in the Duesseldorf area of Germany, the submarine base at the French Atlantic port of Lorient, the

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